and discussions with officials, academicians, scientists, technologists and wider cross sections of administrators in the Government. Department of Telecom (now Department of Telecom Services) was made a nodal agency to establish High Speed Data Network in India in conjunction with IUNet of Carnegie Mellon University, USA. Thereafter, normal procedures as prescribed for approval of such projects were followed. There is no proposal at present to review the project.

Objectives and functions of IGNCA

4624. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government contemplate to redefine the objectives and functions of the Centre to render its presence more relevant, broad based and effective in the light of the reconstitution of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) Trust;

(b) if so, whether any guidelines have been drawn up for the purpose; and

(c) if not, whether Government have been fully convinced that the present objectives and functions of the Centre are relevant and comprehensive and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) By reconstituting the IGNCA Trust, the Government have ensured that the Trust functions in accordance with the original Trust Deed of March 1987. It can be expected that the Trust will review the activities and functions of IGNCA and issue appropriate directives on ongoing and future programmes and activities.

Protection to Konark from Salinity

4625. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Status are breaking down in Konark because of salinity;

(b) whether it is also a fact that monuments are endangered by further salinity as the huge trees which protected the monuments were destroyed by the super cyclone;

(c) how Government propose to protect this ancient heritage; and

(d) if so, whether Government have drawn up any special plan for the same?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (d) The effect of salinity on exposed sculptures of Sun Temple, Konark depends upon the inherent mineral composition of the stone used. However, there is no report of the Konark sculptures breaking down due to the recent cyclone.

In addition to green belt created to protect the temple from the saline winds, chemical cleaning and treatment is also done periodically to protect and preserve the temple. Archaeological Survey of India has already removed the uprooted shrubs within the temple complex and has taken up the renovation of entire garden inside.

The Forest Department of Government of Orissa has initiated the salvage operation of damaged trees around Sun Temple, Konark and has prepared schemes for taking up the plantation in coastal belt around the temple. No time frame can be indicated for the implementation of the scheme by the State Government.

Restoration of temples in Combodia

4626. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Combodian Prime Minister has invited Archaeological Survey of India for restoration of temples at Angkor Vat;

(b) if so, whether the modalities have been finalised; and

(c) by when the work is likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

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